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## IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

TECH CENTER 1600/2600

WILLI KREUDER ET AL.

SERIAL NO.: 09/601,434

FILED: AUGUST 2, 2000

FOR: USE OF SPIRO COMPOUNDS AS  
LASER DYES

: ART UNIT:

: EXAMINER:

Commissioner for Patents  
Washington, D.C. 20231

I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS CORRESPONDENCE IS BEING DEPOSITED WITH THE UNITED STATES POSTAL SERVICE AS FIRST-CLASS MAIL IN AN ENVELOPE ADDRESSED TO: COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS, WASHINGTON D.C. 20231 ON THIS 28th DAY OF August 2000.

BY: Jean M. Marshall

## INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT (37 CFR 1.56 AND 1.97-1.98)

Sir:

Applicants submit herewith a list of patents and publications which Applicants believe the Examiner may consider to be material to the patentability of claims of this application and which there may be a duty to disclose in accordance with 37 CFR § 1.56. The references listed were either cited in the International Search Report ("ISR") or are English language versions of references cited in the ISR. Because copies of the references cited were transmitted already to the USPTO as an Elected Office, only copies of the English language versions are included herein.

Because references EP 0676461 A2 and DE-A-3703065 are in the German language, copies of their respective English language equivalents US Patent No. 5,840,217 and US Patent Nos. 5,041,238 and 5,037,578 are included herein.

While the patents and publications disclosed herein may be material within the meaning of 37 CFR § 1.56, Applicants' inclusion thereof in this Statement is not intended to constitute an

admission that any such patent or publication is prior art for this invention unless specifically designated as such.

In accordance with 37 CFR § 1.97 (g) and (h), the filing of this Information Disclosure Statement shall not be construed to mean that a search has been made or that the information cited is material to patentability as defined in 37 CFR § 1.56(b).

This Information Disclosure Statement is being filed before the first Office Action on the merits of this application and accordingly, pursuant to 37 CFR § 1.97 (b)(3), this statement requires neither a fee nor a certification. If the undersigned is mistaken, however, please charge any fees required by the filing of this paper or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 03-2775.

Respectfully submitted,

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